

### 2021 Board Candidate Questionnaire

1 **What is your name?**

Jennifer E Johnson

2 **What agency are you with? ♦**

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes

3 **Position are you running for?**

Answer

President

Vice President

Treasurer

State Agency Director

Local Agency Director

4 **How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity? ♦**

13 years at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes - Seven years as Executive Director  
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes took over the CSF program from the local Community Action Agency approximately 13 years ago.  
We have a small team that oversees this specific program - staying apprised of the annual allotment and any changes in programming.

5 **What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other programs? ♦**

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes advocates for a hunger free community and by doing so actively publicizes the need for this program.  
We work closely with our State partners who administer the program to ensure that we are doing everything we can to connect seniors with food. And we work closely with two local agencies - Senior Services of Kalamazoo and the Area Agency on Aging - to stay connected to what they are seeing.  
On an annual basis, we share our data with local leaders and State legislators to raise awareness and to make sure that when there are opportunities to talk about the shifts in poverty and hunger that they are able to relay the most up to date information.

6 **What do you see as the number one external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it? ♦**

Fluctuations in funding and food supply are key challenges for all of us. It's never been more obvious than during the COVID-19 crisis when you see the glaring disparities amongst the population of Americans.  
These monthly CSFP distributions make all the difference for our seniors who struggle with multiple challenges. It's our job to share our stories and speak loudly so that the decision makers know how important this work is to large and small communities alike.

7 **What do you see as the number one internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association, and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it? ♦**

1. These programs can have so many barriers or hoops to jump through that is difficult to maintain. We inherited the program years ago because the agency that was overseeing it could not handle the paperwork. We know that the detail of this work is important but will it keep critical agencies from administering the program because it takes dedicated staff to oversee it?
2. It is heartbreaking to see a senior that arranged for a ride and has come all the way down to a distribution site to be turned away because they are just above the minimum eligibility. And these are folks that are barely ineligible.

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**8 At which of the following NCSFPA Conferences were you in attendance? ♦**

Answer

2013 Salt Lake City

2014 Philadelphia

2015 Charleston

2017 New Orleans

2018 Fort Myers

2019 Alexandria

None

Other

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**9 On what other Boards of Directors or Committees (on any level, Local, State, or National), have you served? ♦**

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Board Member

Kalamazoo County Hunger-Free Community Coalition

Kalamazoo County Response Consortium

Hunger Free Communities member (national)

Closing the Hunger Gap Member (national)